

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 180915Z FEB 74 ZFF-1

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5016

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 2405

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

HONGKONG FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

KHMER SITUATIONER

1. MISSION BELIEVES THAT ITEMS TWO, THREE, FOUR AND SEVEN BELOW DESCRIBE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING QTE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. THE SUPREME PATRIARCHS OF THE DHARMAYUTIKA AND MOHANIKAY BUDDHIST ORDERS YESTERDAY APPEALED TO THE UNITED NATIONS, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND WORLD OPINION TO STOP THE "WAR OF AGGRESSION" AGAINST THE KHMER REPUBLIC. IN AN OPEN LETTER BROADCAST OVER RADIO PHNOM PENH, THE HEADS OF THE TWO LEADING BUDDHIST ORDERS IN THE REPUBLIC DENOUNCED THE INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING OF PHNOM PENH AND SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS: "HAVE WREAKED UNTOLD HAVOC, CAUSED UNDESCRIBABLE SUFFERING FOR INNOCENT PEOPLE AND CAUSED ENORMOUS DESTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE Y THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. MANY BUDDHIST MONKS HAVE BEEN PITILESSLY SLAIN BY THE ENEMY AGGRESSORS, WHILE THE FAITHFUL

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OF BOTH SEXES HAVE ALSO UTTERLY SUFFERED FROM THIS WAR

OF AGGRESSION. MONASTERIES, PLACES OF WORSHIP OF BUDDHIST FAITHFUL, HAVE BEEN DEVASTATED RAZED OR BURNED DOWN TO OUR GREATEST REGRET."

3. THE TWO PATRIARCHS ALSO VOICED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC UNDER PRESIDENT LON NOL AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S SIX-POINT PLAN TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR.

4. GOVERNMENT UNITS, SUPPORTED BY ARMORED VEHICLES, AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES CONTINUED TO MAKE MAJOR ADVANCES YESTERDAY AND TODAY IN THE HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR TUOL LEAP, FIFTEEN KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. TOTAL COMMUNIST CASUALTIES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THE SIXTY-THREE COMMUNIST DEAD REPORTED THUS FAR. THE THREE-PRONGED GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE IS DZBIGNED TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS REMAINING IN AN AREA WHERE GOVERNMENT FORCES KILLED AN ESTIMATED FIVE HUNDRED COMMUNISTS IN ANOTHER MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN JANUARY.

5. SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS YESTERDAY CONTINUED THEIR EFFORTS TO PUSH COMMUNIST TROOPS OUT OF HEAVILY FORTIFIED POSITIONS ALONG THE PREK THNAOT RIVER LINE. THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN COMMUNIST MORTAR AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS BUT GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT. FIGHTING WAS ALSO REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF PREK HO NORTH OF THE RIVER.

6. SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NEAR PEAM REAM AND BANAM ALONG THE MEKONG, AND AT PREK PAO AND ROBAS ANG KHANH IN THE BASSAC-MEKONG PENINSULA. NO GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED IN THESE ATTACKS.

7. COMMUNIST MORTARS HIT THE CENTER OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF SIEM REAP YESTERDAY, KILLING TWO WOMEN AND TWO CHILDREN, AND WOUNDING SIXTEEN OTHER CIVILIANS, TWELVE OF WHOM WERE CHILDREN. GOVERNMENT TROOPS ENGAGED A COMMUNIST UNIT OUTSIDE THE CITY, KILLING ONE SOLDIER AND CAPTURING ANOTHER.

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8. A CONVOY OF 50 TRUCKS FROM THE SEAPORT AT KOMPONG SOM BROUGHT RICE AND SUPPLIES TO GOVERNMENT UNITS FIGHTING TO REOPEN THE CUT IN ROUTE 4, TWENTY-FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU.

9. ELSWEHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, SMALL ENGAGEMENTS AND LIGHT COMMUNIST MORTAR ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AT THE PROVINCIAL

CAPITALS OF KOMPONG CHHAM, TAKEO, KOMPOT, AND KOMPONG
CHHANG.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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